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Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Alert: The Department of State Strongly Recommends Against Adopting from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

This Alert Supersedes the Alert Issued on June 2, 2015

The exit permit suspension for Congolese children adopted by foreigners is still in effect. While the Congolese government has recently made significant progress to address the large number of adopted children who have not been able to leave the DRC because of the exit permit suspension, the suspension remains firmly in place. While the DRC government recently issued exit permits for many children approved by the Congolese Interministerial Commission, those cases have been pending for upwards of 30 months. The Department of State continues to ask all adoption service providers not to refer new Congolese adoption cases for U.S. prospective adoptive parents. The Department of State strongly recommends against initiating an adoption in the DRC at this time.

The Department of State continues to advocate for any families whose adopted children have not received exit permits. We will continue to engage with the Congolese government on long-term adoption reform.

Please address any questions or concerns to

ExitPermitSuspensionDRC@state.gov.